

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13-16 are newly added.

Claim rejections

Section 102(b)

Claim 1, 2, 5-8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al. (US 6,318,140), and further under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Narusaki et al. (WO 02/38302). Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 were objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, the recitations of claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into claim 1. The recitations of claims 1 and 4 have been incorporated into claim 2. Further, the recitations of claims 8 and 9 have been incorporated into claim 7, and the recitations of claims 7 and 10 have been incorporated into claim 8. New claims 13, 14, 15 and 16 correspond to claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 but have been amended so that claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 1 and claims 15 and 16 depend on claim 7.

Since in view of the above all of the pending claims include subject matter indicated to be patentable, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

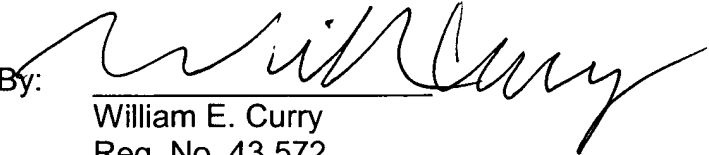
Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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